

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An operation method for processing data file, comprising the steps of:

(a) displaying a reduced-size image for use in identifying contents of a data file, and a file icon associated with said reduced-size image in pair at a predetermined interval between them, said file icon having a smaller area than said reduced-size image; and

(b) performing at least either one of the operations of i) selecting a function to be applied to said data file and ii) changing a display position of said reduced-size image by a drag-and-drop operation on said file icon.

2. The operation method for processing data file as set forth in claim 1, wherein:

in said step (b), the reduced-size image is fixed at a current position while a drag operation on said file icon is being performed at a predetermined speed or higher; on the other hand, when the drag speed is reduced below the predetermined speed, a frame in size of the reduced-size image is displayed.

3. The operation method for processing data file as set forth in claim 1, wherein:

in said step (b), when said file icon is dropped at

position where any function icon representing a kind of a function to be applied to said data file is not displayed, a display position of the corresponding reduced-size image is changed by moving the corresponding reduced-size image to a position at a predetermined interval from a dropped position of said file icon.

4. The operation method for processing data file as set forth in claim 3, wherein:

said reduced-size image is displayed in an area on the opposite side of a moving region of the file icon where the file icon is moved to a display position of a function icon.

5. The operation method for processing data file as set forth in claim 1, wherein:

in said step (b), when the file icon has moved to a position more than a predetermined distance apart from the corresponding reduced-size image, an icon return space is displayed at or in a proximity of the original display position of the file icon, at a predetermined fixed interval from the reduced-size image.

6. The operation method for processing data file

as set forth in claim 5, wherein:

in said step (b), when said file icon is dropped in said icon return space, said file icon is moved back to its original display position without moving the associated reduced-size image.

7. The operation method for processing data file as set forth in claim 5, wherein:

said icon return space is formed in an outstanding pattern.

8. The operation method for processing data file as set forth in claim 5, wherein:

said icon return space is larger in size than said file icon.